Approved for Release: 2015/12/21 C06460906

(b)(3)

Director of Central Intelligence

~~Top Secret~~

National Intelligence Daily

Wednesday
2 December 1987

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

~~Top Secret~~

CPAS NID 87-279JX

2 December 1987

(b)(3)

Approved for Release: 2015/12/21 C06460906

Approved for Release: 2015/12/21 C06460906

EL SALVADOR: **Political Tensions Again Rising**

With the approach of Salvadoran legislative and municipal elections in March, President Duarte faces increasing turmoil within his party and renewed criticism from the right. [redacted] (b)(3)

Duarte's Christian Democrats are beset by internal bickering, threatened defections by key figures, and a widespread reputation for corruption and inefficiency, according to US Embassy reporting. Many blame Duarte for lack of direction and worry that disunity—sparked by infighting between two contenders for the presidential nomination in 1989—could cost the party its legislative majority next year. [redacted] (b)(3)

Meanwhile, returned insurgent political leaders Ruben Zamora and Guillermo Ungo refuse to disassociate themselves publicly from the armed rebels and continue to emphasize traditional guerrilla negotiating demands, including power sharing. The Embassy reports that rightwing hardliners have harshly criticized the Army for supporting Duarte and have accused the government of "advancing Communist interests" by allowing Zamora and Ungo to return home from exile. They also have accused a key Duarte appointee of murdering Archbishop Romero in 1980, an accusation designed to offset Duarte's charges that rightwing leader Roberto D'Aubuisson was responsible. According to the Embassy, one conservative group has suggested that a coup would now be justified. [redacted] (b)(3)

Comment: There is no sign that Army support for Duarte has declined. Nevertheless, civil-military tensions may increase if rightwing rhetoric—intended to inflame generally conservative middle-level officers over the activities of Zamora and Ungo—should lead to a renewal of death squad killings and guerrilla reprisals. [redacted] (b)(3)

Duarte probably is more concerned about the disarray within his party. Squabbling over the presidential nomination might cost the Christian Democrats their control of the legislature next year, give Zamora and Ungo opportunities to attract disenchanted members of the ruling party to their new political alliance, and jeopardize party prospects for the presidential election in 1989. Duarte thus far has remained aloof from the infighting but may be forced to take a more direct role in running the party; he may even choose a presidential nominee acceptable to all factions. [redacted] (b)(3)

Approved for Release: 2015/12/21 C06460906